2/24/90

Dear Michael, Wisebere

My parents emigrated about the turn of the century. They never spoke about what they called the Old Country before us except in Russian, which they were careful not to teach my older sister and me.

My father did come from the Ukraine. I remember he once mentioned the village, Baronovka. He also once mentioned going to I think Kiev on business for his father, whose name was Abraham. From something a cousin once told me it could not have been a very great distance from Zhitomir. His name was Frederick. He had a brother, Benjamin. Sisters Edith and Bessie. I mention the names because when eastern Europeans with names that were strange gave them to some not very literate immigration people the same names came up with different spellings, from different immigration people.

My mother came from not far from there but from what I believe then was called Bessarabia and is now called Moldavia.

Also from my father's village were the violinist Mischa Elman and a first violinist of the New York Philharmonic, Kieva (approx) Grossman.

I mention these things in the event your grandparents are still alive.

Part of my father's family settled in Philadelphia. I don't know where the others did.

And I know that after World War I he occasionally sent money to relatives who had not emigrated. In a rural area.

If any of this is familiar to your folks I'd like to know because some of my relatives are trying to figure out more about the family tree. Of my generation. I was born in 1913.

I'm waiting to hear from those doing the tracing to see what they've been able to put together.

Two of my paternal grandfather's sisters married Steinbrooks, brothers, I think.

And one married a cousin, also a Weisberg, Harrison in English. I don't know his Jewish first name.

Baronovka, probably a very common city name, was on a broad River, possibly the Dniester byt maybe the Dnepper (also approx.)

Best wishes,

Harold